

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13681 141800Z

42

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAB-01 SR-02

ORM-01 /085 W

----- 108734

R 141720Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1344

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

US MISSION USUN NY 2777

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13681

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLO UNGA XF

SUBJECT: 'ARAFAT'S SPEECH TO UNGA

REF: USUN 4994

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 13681 141800Z

1. 'ARAFAT'S UNGA ADDRESS, IN OUR VIEW, WAS GENERALLY WHAT

ONE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED FROM HIM AT SUCH TIME AND PLACE. WE WOULD HAVE BEEN AS MUCH SURPRISED TO HEAR HIM EXPLICITLY SURRENDER MAXIMILIST GOALS SET FORTH IN PLO'S "NATIONAL CHARTER" AS WE WOULD HAVE BEEN TO HEAR HIM CLOAK THOSE GOALS IN TRADITIONAL FEDAYEEN BLUSTER AND BOMBAST. 'ARAFAT'S "DIRECT APPEAL" TO AMERICAN PEOPLE STRUCK US AS ALMOST PLAINTIVE IN CHARACTER, AND HIS HISTORICAL REVIEW OF "ZIONIST CRIMES" AND PALESTINIAN SUFFERINGS APPERED RELATIVELY RESTRAINED WHEN SET BESIDE FAMILIAR PLO JARGON AND PAST EXTREMIST PALESTINIAN SLOGANS. IN SHORT, WE REGARD HIS PEECH AS NOTEWORTHY JUST AS MUCH FOR WHAT IT DID NOT SAY AS FOR WHAT IT SAID. WE WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT HIS FINAL PLEA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN "NATIONAL INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGNTY" WAS NEITHER TEXTUALLY NOR CONCEPTUALLY LINKED WITH HIS "HOPE" FOR EVENTUAL CREATION OF DEMOCRATIC SECULAR STATE IN ALL OF PALESTINE. WE CONTINUE BELIEVE, AS NOTED OUR 13281 (NOTAL, THAT ACID TEST OF PLO'S "MODERATE" INTENTIONS WILL COME IN CONNECTION WITH WHATEVER RESOLUTION EMERGES FROM CURRENT DEBATE, PARTICULARLY IN ITS REVELATION OF PLO WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AND BUILD UPON SC RES 242 AS CONTINUING BASIS FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN ME.

2. LOCAL MEDIA REACTION BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. LOCAL PALESTINIAN REACTION GENERALLY FAVORABLE AND, IN MANY CASES, JUBILANT. BEIRUT REFUGEE CAMPS CELEBRATED NOV 13 WITH RALLIES (FBIS BE131330) AND PARADE OF 3-4,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING ARMED FEDAYEEN, IN VICINITY OF LOCAL PLO HEADQUARTERS, AND SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS WERE REPORTED IN CAMPS NEAR TRIPOLI, SIDON AND BAALBEK. LARGER OUT-POURING OF PALESTINIAN EMOTIONS ERUPTED LATER DURING NIGHT IN BEIRUT CAMPS, WHERE HEAVY AND UNRESTRAINED AUTOMATIC-WEAPONS FIRING WAS HEARD CONTINUOUSLY FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND CAUSED CONSIDERABLE PANIC AMONG CITIZENS WHO APPARENTLY FEARED THAT ISRAELIS WERE STAGING ANOTHER RAID ON LEBANESE CAPITAL.

GODLEY

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